



Council Meeting Synopsis

Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on
April 29th, 2025



- ★ All members of Council except Councilor Chambers and Councilor LaCoste were present. Chambers and Lacoste were excused. Mayor Craven presided.
- ★ *Calapooia Food Alliance Report* | Peggy Purkerson | Mrs. Purkerson provided the annual report on behalf of the Calapooia Food Alliance highlighting the food that is donated annually to Sharing Hands, the Community Garden program, the Farmer's Market, Munch Night, and the Azure buying program. The Market will run starting May 1st from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Hours will be extended once summer rolls around. The Market runs through October and is being held at D & D Storage across from Dari Mart. Melissa Selby is the new Market Director. To learn more about the CFA visit <https://www.calapooiafoodalliance.org>.
- ★ *TMDL | Semi-Annual Report* | Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink and City Administrator Scott McDowell met the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requirement to cover the State's TMDL program twice a year. The City is supposed to remind pet owners to clean up after your pets. The City has installed pet waste stations for your convenience. The City is charged with reminding everyone that all water runoff leads to the river. The State wants you to be mindful of water runoff and the impacts on fish habitat and water quality health. Please report any illegal dumping to City Hall.
- ★ *Linn County Sheriff's Office Report* | Sergeant Frambes reported on the statistics from last month. Frambes said they are continuing the investigation on the coffee shop break-ins that have been happening all over Linn County. Hansen asked about a situation that happened at the 76-gas station on Highway 228. Frambes said that it is under investigation. Hansen asked about the use of non-lethal options. Frambes outlined the training and licensing that is required for these alternate resources. Winklepleck encouraged Council to apply to ride along with a patrol. Winklepleck said you really get a totally new understanding of the challenges law enforcement continues to face.
- ★ *City Administrator Report* | Administrator Scott McDowell reported work on developing a new website has begun. McDowell will be meeting with CivicsPlus to review a new platform the company is rolling out to smaller cities like Brownsville. He shared sweeping changes to programs such as PFA's and VOC's being implemented by the State of Oregon. Staff will be working on insurance renewals. The marijuana lawsuit filed in 2018 was recently officially dismissed after one appeal. Staff have been busy reading bills and protecting City residents as best as possible from overregulation and other demands being considered by the State Legislature. The City will be a ballot drop site for Linn County Clerk's Office until Election Day which is May 20th, 2025. City Hall will be open on that day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Resolution 2025.07: State Shared Revenues & Services Verification (Annual) | Council unanimously passed this to be eligible to receive State Shared Revenues.
- ★ Ordinance 807: City Administrator Nonelective Appointments (Second Reading) | Council unanimously passed an ordinance that will modify how nonelective positions are filled by the City to match actual practice.
- ★ Ordinance 808: Nuisance Abatement Modification | Brownsville Municipal Code | Chapter 8.30.120 (First Reading) | Council considered an ordinance that will modify the nuisance abatement ordinance to clarify field procedures.
- ★ Proclamation: Linn County Pioneer Association | Mayor Craven and Council recognized the 138th Pioneer Picnic.

- ★ *Proclamation: Mental Health Month* | Councilor Winklepleck read the proclamation recognizing May as Mental Health month, reminding all to take care of yourself.
- ★ *Proclamation: Older Americans Month* | Councilor Hansen read the proclamation recognizing May as Older Americans Month to appreciate the significant contributions Seniors make in Brownsville.
- ★ *Proclamation: Military Appreciation Month* | Councilor Winklepleck read the proclamation recognizing May as Military Appreciation Month thanking those in the armed forces current and past who have sacrificed for our freedoms.
- ★ *Linn County Pioneer Association | Logistics Letter (Annual)* | Council approved a letter to be forwarded to the Association detailing responsibilities of the City and the Association so that we can do our best to ensure a great event for all.
- ★ *Authorize Canal Company Operations Agreement* | Council authorized an operations agreement for the purpose of working with the Brownsville Canal Company to supply water into the Mill Race for 2025. The City has been providing services for many years without a formalized agreement in place. This agreement is different than the one pitched at the Town Hall meetings held this past February. The Canal Company voted against moving forward with that particular agreement at the Company's meeting held April 10th, 2025.
- ★ *Approve Goals Strategy & Timeline | Goal Setting 2025.2026* | Council unanimously approved the strategy as outlined by McDowell. Council will form several committees of Council to accomplish additional goals as adopted by Council.
- ★ *Elected Officials Handbook Modifications* | Council unanimously adopted modifications to the handbook concerning new citizen comment procedures and social media practices.
- ★ *Authorize Rural Economic Alliance (REAL) Agreement* | Council unanimously authorized an agreement to continue economic development efforts with REAL. REAL is comprised of nine cities in Linn & Benton counties working together on strategies to help existing businesses and to attract possible businesses to the broader area.
- ★ *Support Alyrica's Broadband Equity Proposal* | Alyrica has teamed up with Central Linn School District to provide high-speed internet to certain facilities. Alyrica requested Council support. Council was not in favor of using taxpayer dollars for these purposes.
- ★ *Citizen Comments* | Betty Doren expressed concerns about drainage along her property and made accusations against City Staff. Sharon Banks introduced the new editor of the Brownsville Times, Sravya Tadepalli. She reported that they are planning the first week of June as the official relaunch of the local newspaper. You can subscribe, volunteer and learn more by visiting <https://brownsvilletimes.org>.
- ★ *Council Comments* | Councilor Hansen discussed his opposition to HB 2548 which is a bill that brings a host of unnecessary bureaucracy to the Agriculture industry through small businesses. Hansen encouraged everyone to sign up for listserv mailers to track bills that are being considered by the State Legislature. Hansen also shared the Central Linn School District's Bond Measure flier. Councilor Winklepleck wondered where the State Lottery & Marijuana monies were for this project.

All information the Mayor & Council received for the meeting can be found on-line prior to every meeting and afterwards at <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/meetings>. Please contact City Administrator Scott McDowell with questions at 541.466.5880 or email at admin@ci.brownsville.or.us.

For more information, please visit <https://ci.brownsville.or.us>.



Upcoming Events

Council Meeting | May 28th, 2025 (*Wednesday*) | Council Chambers | 7:00 p.m.
Budget Hearing | May 28th, 2025 at Council Meeting | 7:00 p.m.



FY 2025.2026 | Budget Committee Happenings

The Budget Committee met April 24th, 2025, and completed their recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year. Below are links to the LB1 and the complete proposed budget.



LB1 Form:

LB 1: <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/bc-budget/page/2025-lb1-fy-20252026>

Completed Recommended Budget:

Recommended Budget: <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/bc-budget/page/2025-budget-fy-20252026-budget-committee-approved>



All City Budget Information: <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/bc-budget>.

Weeds & Nuisance Season



June 1st is the official start of noxious vegetation season in Brownsville. The Brownsville Municipal Code, Chapter 8.30.060, states that weeds and obnoxious vegetation more than twelve inches (12”) high must be cut by June 1st. With typical spring weather, rain showers and then bursts of sunshine, weather has encouraged the grasses and vegetation to grow quickly. Staff will be reviewing all properties in the City soon to check for weeds & nuisance compliance.

This ordinance is designed for fire hazard mitigation. Recent local wildfires over the last few seasons have shown the importance of maintaining a defensible space around your home and property.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal proclaimed May as *Wildfire Awareness Month* and promotes a program known as *Community Wildfire Protection Program (CWPP)*. Please visit their website at <https://www.oregon.gov/osfm/pages/default.aspx> to find more information. Your local fire department is likely also promoting this effort.



City of Brownsville



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PRSRT STD

ECRWSS

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL PATRON

Fences and Accessory Structures

Did you know, a permit is required for new and replacement fences and accessory structures. An accessory structure can be a green house, storage shed, etc.

For more information, contact Elizabeth at City Hall, Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or email Elizabeth at assistant@ci.brownsville.or.us.



Emergency Preparedness



The City of Brownsville has emergency preparedness information on the website, www.ci.brownsville.or.us. The website covers topics such as a 72-Hour Kit, the Linn County Orange Book, electrical outages, etc. You can also access the Central Linn Community Emergency Preparedness Committee page at <http://clcepc.org/>. You will find lots of useful information!

Emergency preparedness starts with you
be prepared



make a plan



build a kit



stay informed